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Pl. I.

1698/64

A

NATURAL HISTORY

OF THE

BIRDS OF NEW SOUTH WALES,

COLLECTED, ENGRAVED, AND FAITHFULLY PAINTED AFTER NATURE,

BY

JOHN WILLIAM LEWIN, A.L.S.

LATE OF PARAMATTA, NEW SOUTH WALES.

NEW AND IMPROVED EDITION,

TO WHICH IS ADDED

A LIST OF THE SYNONYMES OF EACH SPECIES,

INCORPORATING THE LABOURS OF

T. GOULD, ESQ., N. A. VIGORS, ESQ., T. HORSFIELD, M.D., AND W. SWAINSON, ESQ.

LONDON:

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INDEX OF SYNONYMES.

In re-issuing the remaining copies of Lewin's valuable work on the "Birds of New Holland," the Publisher has endeavoured to render it as complete as possible, by having the whole of the Plates carefully and accurately coloured, from specimens obligingly lent him for that purpose by Mr. Gould; and by adding a correct List of the Synonymes of each species, in which he has availed himself of the labours of those eminent Ornithologists, Messrs. Vigors, Horsfield, Swainson, Gould, Jardine and Selby, and especially of T. C. Eyton, Esq. who kindly superintended the whole. It is hoped that by this means the work will be rendered more valuable both to the scientific and the general reader.

Plate 1.—Three-toed Kingsfisher.

Ceyx azurea, Jard. & Selb. Ill. Orn. vol. i. pl. 55. fig. 1.—Vig. & Horsf. in Linn. Trans. vol. xv. p. 208.
Alcedo azurea, Lath. Ind. Orn. Supp. p. 32.—Swains. Zool. Ill. 1st ser. pl. 26.
Azure Kingsfisher, Lath. Gen. Syn. Supp. vol. ii. add. p. 372. and Gen. Hist. vol. iv. p. 61.
Tridigitated Kingsfisher, Shaw, Gen. Zool. vol. viii. p. 105.
Alcedo tribrachys, Nat. Misc. pl. 681.—Temm. Mann. 2d. Edit. p. lxxxviii.

Plate 2.—Mountain Bee-eater.

Merops melanurus, Vig. & Horsf. in Linn. Trans. vol. xv. p. 208.

Plate 3.—Waty-faced Honeysucker.

Anthochæra Phrygia, Vig. & Horsf. in Linn. Trans. vol. xv. p. 322.
Merops Phrygius, Lath. Ind. Orn. Supp. p. 34.
Black and Yellow Honey-eater, Lath. Gen. Hist. vol. iv. p. 165.

Plate 4.—Blue-faced Honeysucker.

Tropidorhynchus cyanotis, Vig. & Horsf. in Linn. Trans. vol. xv. p. 225.
Gracula cyanotis, Lath. Ind. Orn. Supp. p. 29.—Shaw, Gen. Zool. vol. iv. p. 474.
Graculine Honey-eater, Lath. Gen. Hist. vol. iv. p. 166.
Blue-eared Grakle, Lath. Gen. Syn. Supp. vol. ii. p. 130.

Plate 5.—Yellow-eared Honeysucker.

Ptilotis chrysotis, Gould. Syn. Birds of Australia, part iv.
Spot-eared creeper, Shaw, Gen. Zool. vol. viii. p. 244.
Meliphaga chrysotis, Vig. & Horsf. in Linn. Trans. vol. xv. p. 314.—Gould, Syn. Birds of Australia, part i.
Certhia chrysotis, Lath. Ind. Orn. Supp. p. 38.
Yellow-eared Creeper, Lath. Gen. Syn. Supp. vol. ii. p. 169.
Yellow-eared Honey-eater, Lath. Gen. Hist. vol. iv. p. 195.
Ptilotis Lewinii, Swains. Class. of Birds, vol. ii. p. 326.

Plate 6.—King Honeysucker.

Sericulus chrysocephalus, Swains. in Zool. Journ. vol. i. p. 478.—Vig. & Horsf. in Linn. Trans. vol. xv. p. 326.—Jard. & Selb. Ill. Orn. vol. i. pls. 18, 19, 20.
Golden-crowned Honey-eater, Lath. Gen. Hist. vol. iv. p. 184.
Loriot Prince Regent, Temm. Pl. Col. 320.—Quoy et Gaim. Freycinet's Voy. Autour du Monde, pl. 22.

Plate 7.—Crimson-throated Flycatcher.

Dicæum gularis.
Dicæum sanguinea, Swains. Class. of Birds, vol. ii.
Crimson-throated Manakin, Lath. Gen. Syn. Suppl. vol. ii. p. 254. and Gen. Hist. vol. vii. p. 240.
Pipra gularis, Lath. Ind. Orn. Supp. p. 57.—Steph. Cont. Shaw, Gen. Zool. vol. x. p. 17.
Pardalotus gularis, ibid. vol. xiii. p. 252.

Plate 8.—Orange-breasted Thrush.

Pachycephala pectoralis, Vig. & Horsf. in Linn. Trans. vol. xv. p. 239.—Gould, Syn. Birds of Australia, part iii.—Birds of Australia, part ii.
Muscicapa pectoralis, Lath. Ind. Orn. Supp. p. li.
Black-breasted Flycatcher, Lath. Gen. Syn. Supp. vol. ii. p. 222.
Guttural Thrush, var. A. Lath. Gen. Hist. vol. v. p. 136.
Pachycephala striata, Vig. & Horsf. in Linn. Trans. vol. xv. p. 240. fem. or young male ?
Lanius macularius, Quoy et Gaim. Voy. de l'Astrolabe, p. 257. pl. 31. fig. 1. young male ?

Plate 9.—Crested Thrush.

Oreoïca gutturalis, Gould, Syn. Birds of Australia, part iv.
Falcunculus gutturalis, Vig & Horsf. in Linn. Trans. vol. xv. p. 212.

PLATE 10.—BLACK-CROWNED THRUSH.

Pachycephala gutturalis, Vig. & Horsf. in Linn. Trans. vol. xv. p. 239.—Gould, Syn. Birds of Australia, part iii.

Turdus gutturalis, Lath. Ind. Orn. Supp. p. xli.

Guttural Thrush, Lath. Gen. Syn. Supp. vol. ii. p. 182. and Gen. Hist. vol. v. p. 136.—Shaw, Gen. Zool. vol. x. p. 256.

PLATE 11.—SPOTTED GROSBEAK.

Amadina Lathami, Gould, Syn. Birds of Australia, part ii.

Fringilla Lathami, Vig. & Horsf. in Linn. Trans. vol. xv. p. 256.

Spotted-sided Grosbeak, Lath. Gen. Hist. vol. v. p. 248. pl. 89.—Shaw, Gen. Zool. vol. ix. p. 493.

PLATE 12.—COMMON GROSBEAK.

Fringilla temporalis, Lath. Ind. Orn. Supp. p. xlviii.—Vig. & Horsf. in Linn. Trans. vol. xv. p. 258.—Jard. & Selb. Ill. Orn. vol. i. pl. 12. fig. 1. male, 2. female.

Temporal Finch, Lath. Gen. Syn. Supp. vol. ii. p. 211. and Gen. Hist. vol. vi. p. 115.—Shaw, Gen. Zool. vol. ix. p. 533.

PLATE 13.—ORANGE-RUMPED FLYCATCHER.

Rhipidura rufifrons, Vig. & Horsf. in Linn. Trans. vol. xv. p. 248.

Muscicapa rufifrons, Lath. Ind. Orn. Supp. p. 1.

Rufous-fronted Flycatcher, Lath. Gen. Syn. Supp. vol. ii. p. 220. and Gen. Hist. vol. vi. p. 213.—Shaw, Gen. Zool. vol. x. p. 373.

PLATE 14.—SCARLET-BACKED WARBLER.

Malurus Brownii, Vig. & Horsf. in Linn. Trans. vol. xv. p. 223.—Jard. & Selb. Ill. Orn. vol. ii. pl. 72. fig. 1.

PLATE 15.—VARIEGATED WARBLER.

Malurus Lamberti, Vig. & Horsf. in Linn. Trans. vol. xv. p. 221.—Jard. & Selb. Ill. Orn. vol. ii. pl. 72. fig. 2.—Gould, Syn. Birds of Australia, part i.

PLATE 16.—ROCK WARBLER.

Origma solitaria, Gould, Syn. Birds of Australia, part iv.

Saxicola solitaria, Vig. & Horsf. in Linn. Trans. vol. xv. p. 236.

Solitary Flycatcher, Lath. Gen. Hist. vol. vi. p. 220.

PLATE 17.—RED-BREASTED WARBLER.

Petroica multicolor, Swains. Zool. Ill. 2nd ser. pl. 36.—Gould, Syn. Birds of Australia, part i.

Muscicapa multicolor, Gmel. Syst. vol. i. p. 944.—Vig. & Horsf. in Linn. Trans. vol. xv. p. 243.

Muscicapa erythrogastra, Lath. Ind. Orn. p. 479.—Gmel. Syst. vol. i. p. 944.

Red-bellied Flycatcher, Lath. Gen. Syn. vol. iii. p. 343. pl. 50.—Id. Supp. vol. ii. p. 216.—Nat. Misc. pl. 147.—Shaw, Gen. Zool. vol. x. p. 400. pl. 32.—Lath. Gen. Hist. vol. vi. p. 209. pl. 100.

PLATE 18.—REED WARBLER.

Calamoherpe Australis, Gould.

PLATE 19.—SCARLET CREEPER.

Myzomela cardinalis, Vig. & Horsf. in Linn. Trans. vol. xv. p. 316.

Certhia cardinalis, Gmel. Syst. vol. i. p. 472.—Lath. Ind. Orn. vol. i. p. 299.

Le Souï Manga rouge et gris, Vieill. ois. dor. tom. ii. p. 58. pl. 36.

Cardinal Honeysucker, Lath. Gen. Hist. vol. iv. p. 199. pl. 71. fig. 2.

PLATE 20.—WHITE-EARED HONEYSUCKER.

Ptilotis leucotis, Swains. Class. of Birds, vol. ii. p. 326.

Turdus leucotis, Lath. Ind. Orn. p. xliv.

White-eared Honeyeater, Lath. Gen. Hist. vol. iv. p. 186.

White-eared Thrush, Lath. Gen. Syn. Supp. vol. ii. p. 373.

Meliphaga leucotis, Vig. & Horsf. in Linn. Trans. vol. xv. p. 314.—Jard. & Selb. Ill. Orn. vol. i. pl. 35. fig. 2.—Temm. Man. part i. p. lxxxvii.—Temm. Pl. Col. 435.—Gould, Syn. Birds of Australia, part i.

PLATE 21.—CRESTED FLYCATCHER.

Myiägra plumbea, Vig. & Horsf. in Linn. Trans. vol. xv. p. 254.

PLATE 22.—WHITE-BREASTED HONEYSUCKER.

Gliciphila fulvifrons, Swains. Class. of Birds, vol. ii.

Meliphaga fulvifrons, Vig. & Horsf. in Linn. Trans. vol. xv. p. 317.

PLATE 23.—YELLOW-BREASTED THRUSH.

Eopsaltria Australis, Gould, Syn. Birds of Australia, part iv.

Pachycephala Australis, Vig. & Horsf. in Linn. Trans. vol. xv. p. 242.

Southern Motacilla, White's Voy. pl. in p. 239.

Southern Flycatcher, Lath. Gen. Hist. vol. vi. p. 216.

Eopsaltria flavicollis, Swains. Class. of Birds, vol. ii. p. 250

PLATE 24.—BLACK-CROWNED HONEYSUCKER.

Hæmatops lunulatus, Gould, Syn. Birds of Australia, part i.

Certhia lunulata, Shaw, Zool. vol. viii. p. 224.

Le Fuscalbin, Vieill. Ois. dor. tom. ii. p. 95. pl. 61.

Red-eyed Honeyeater, Lath. Gen. Hist. vol. iv. p. 203.

Meliphaga lunulata, Vig. & Horsf. in Linn. Trans. vol. xv. p. 315.—Jard. & Selb. Ill. Orn. vol. iii. pl. 134. fig. 2.

Meliphaga atricapilla, Temm. Pl. Col. 335. fig. 1.

Meliphaga torquata, Swains. Zool. Ill. 1st ser. pl. 116.

Gymophrys torquatus, Swains. Class of Birds, vol. ii. p. 327.

PLATE 25.—COMMON CREEPER.

Climacteris scandens, Temm. Pl. Col. 281. fig. 2.—Vig. & Horsf. in Linn. Trans. vol. xv. p. 296.

PLATE 26.—CRESTED SHRIKE.

Falcunculus frontatus, Steph. Cont. of Shaw, Gen. Zool. vol. xiii. p. 149. pl. 50.—Vig. & Horsf. in Linn. Trans. vol. xv. p. 212.

Lanius frontatus, Lath. Ind. Orn. and Supp.—Shaw, Gen. Zool. vol. vii. p. 312.—Temm. Pl. Col. 77.

Frontal Shrike, Lath. Gen. Hist. vol. ii. p. 72. pl. 20.

THE

BIRDS OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

THREE-TOE KING-FISHER.

(Pl. I.)

LENGTH

SEVEN inches; bill one inch and a quarter and black; eye brown; lashes black; forehead the same; through the eye a streak of black, on each side of which there is an orange colour spot; crown, hind-head, cheek, neck, and back, deep purple-blue mixed with black; shoulders the same, and primaries and secondaries, edged with blue; tail dark blue; chin buff; breast, belly, and vent, orange; legs bright orange; claws black.

INHABITS

Heads of rivers; frequents dead trees near running streams, from whence it darts on its food. This species does not migrate.

MOUNTAIN BEE-EATER.

(Pl. II.)

BEAK curled, flatted, and heel-shaped.

TONGUE divided at the point.

TOES four, three before and one behind, united together as in the Kingfisher, or Alcædæ Genus.

LENGTH

Eight inches and a half; bill one inch and an eighth and black; eye orange; lashes black; forehead pea-green; crown chesnut; through the eye and cheek black, edged with light blue; chin yellow, deepening to a chesnut as it passes to the throat, which is black; neck, back, and shoulders, bright changeable pea-green; rump and tail-coverts light blue; primaries green tipt with black; secondaries chesnut tipt with the same; greater wing-coverts blue; breast and belly pea-green; vent and under tail-coverts blue; tail black and forked, two outer feathers edged with green; quills of two middle tail-feathers, extend an inch below the other; legs and claws brown.

INHABITS

Mountains; frequents the Hawkesbury under the hills, where a few breed every summer. This species appears the latter end of September, and migrates in April.

J. W. Lewin. New South Wales

Pl. III.

M. Lewin. New South Wales

WATY-FACE HONEY-SUCKER.

(Pl. III.)

LENGTH

Eight inches and a quarter; bill half an inch and black; eyes brown; lashes grey; forchead, crown, chin, throat, and neck, deep black; from the base of the bill round the eye and part of the cheek a warty pale yellow patch, covered with hard oblong excrescences; back, rump, tail-coverts, breast and belly, vent and thighs, black, with angular markings of pale yellow; shoulders black; lesser wing-coverts the same, edged with pale yellow; tail cuneiform, the second middle feathers black, in the other feathers the black only reaches half way, the half is bright yellow; legs and claws brown.

INHABITS

These beautiful birds were seen near Paramatta, in great numbers, constantly flying from tree to tree, (particularly the blue gum,) feeding among the blossoms, extracting the honey with their long fibrous tongues from every flower as they passed. Many of them remained that summer and then disappeared.

BLUE-FACE HONEY-SUCKER.

(Pl. IV.)

LENGTH

THIRTEEN inches; bill one inch, the lower half grey, the other black; eye yellow; lashes grey; round the eye a naked blue skin; forehead and crown black; hind-head white; cheek and back of the neck grey-black; chin and throat grey; from the base of the bill on each side white, which passes in a line to the breast; breast, belly, and vent, white; back and rump bright olive; primaries brown, edged with grey; tail olive, tipt with white, and cuneiform; legs and claws dark grey.

INHABITS

Forests; frequents blue gum trees.

REMARKS.

This species are fond of pecking traverse holes in the bark, between which and the wood they insert their long tongues in search of small insects, which they draw to them with great dexterity. It is a noisy chattering bird.

Pl. IV.

J.W. Lewin. Neco. South Wales

Pl. V.

J.W. Lewin – New South Wales

YELLOW-EAR HONEY-SUCKER.

(Pl. V.)

BEAK arched, stout, and almost three-sided.

NOSTRILS long, and covered with a membrane.

TONGUE long, and split into a number of hairy fibres at the end, brush-like.

TOES formed for climbing.

The birds of this genus feed upon the honey combined with the infinitely small insects lodged in most of the flowers of New South Wales, which they extract in a dexterous manner with their tongues, peculiarly formed for that purpose.

LENGTH

Eight inches; bill six-eighths and black; the corner of the mouth a pale yellow; through the eye a streak of black; eye grey; lashes brown; cheek grey: behind the ear a pale yellow patch; chin, throat, breast, belly, vent, greyish olive; forehead dark grey; crown, neck, back, shoulders, and rump, dark greyish olive; primaries and secondaries dark grey, edged with bright olive; tail dark grey, edged with olive, and a little forked; legs and claws brown.

FEMALE

Nearly the same, but of less bright plumage.

INHABITS

The neighbourhood of Paramatta and the Hawkesbury, frequenting thick bushy woods.

REMARKS.

In the winter season these birds have been seen feeding on the sweet berry of the white cedar in great numbers. They have a shrill and very peculiar cry, which is heard at a great distance.

KING HONEY-SUCKER.

(Pl. VI.)

LENGTH

Nine inches and a half; bill one inch in length, and of a bright yellow-orange; eye yellow; forehead, crown, and back part of the neck, bright golden-yellow verging to orange; the feathers short appearing like velvet; from the base of the bill to the eye black; above the eye the same; chin, cheek, throat, black; breast, belly, and vent the same; back and shoulders deep shining blue-black; bastard-wing black; primaries the same; secondaries bright golden-yellow, partly tipt with black; tail black and a little forked; legs and claws black.

INHABITS

The banks of Patterson's river; frequents thick brushy woods.

REMARKS.

This beautiful species was shot about 30 miles from the settlement of Newcastle.

J.W. Lewin, New South W.

PL. VII.

J.W. Lewin New South Wales

CRIMSON-THROAT FLY-CATCHER.

(Pl. VII.)

LENGTH

Three inches and two-eighths; bill two-eighths, the upper mandible black, the lower one paler; eye dark brown; lashes black; forehead, crown, cheek, back, shoulders, and rump, deep shining blue; primaries the same, lightly edged with pale brown; secondaries dark brown, edged with dull white; wing-coverts the same; chin, throat, and part of breast, fine crimson; breast black; sides and belly white; vent and under tail-coverts pale crimson; legs and claws brown.

INHABITS

Forests; frequents high trees. It is a cheerful active bird, constantly singing a short but pleasant song in passing from tree to tree.

ORANGE-BREAST THRUSH.

(Pl. VIII.)

LENGTH

Seven inches; bill half an inch and black; eye brown; lashes grey; forehead, crown, back of the neck, shoulder, back, rump, and tail-coverts, grey; from the base of the beak black; cheeks the same; chin and throat white; fore part of the neck a black crescent-like band; breast, belly, vent, and thigh, orange; wing-coverts black, edged with grey, and forked; legs and claws brown.

FEMALE

Resembling, but plumage less bright.

INHABITS

Forests; frequents high trees, perching generally on the upper branches, where it sings a loud and not unpleasant song about daybreak.

Ill. Lawson Nov. Sc. et Pinx.

J.W. Lewin. Newsouth Wales.

CRESTED THRUSH.

(Pl. IX.)

LENGTH

Seven inches and a half; bill four-eighths and a half and brown; eye same; lashes grey, as also the forehead; feathers on the crown long and black, forming a crest, erected at pleasure; hind head grey; cheek and back part of neck dark grey; back, rump, wings, tail-coverts, a grey-brown; breast light greyish brown; sides and vent a dull oker; belly dull white; thighs brown; legs and claws horn colour.

INHABITS

Rocks; frequents barren scrubby places. Has a jerk in its walking motion, at the same time erecting its crest like the cockatoo.

BLACK-CROWN THRUSH.

(Pl. X.)

BEAK smooth, and coultee shaped; the point of the upper mandible bent downwards, and marginated.

NOSTRILS naked, the upper part covered with a slight membrane; jaws ciliate, and having hair.

TONGUE lacerated and marginated.

TOES middle connected to outer as far as the first joint.

LENGTH

Seven inches; bill half an inch and black; eye brown; lashes grey; forehead, crown, and cheeks, black, which passes in a crescent-like band round the lower part of the throat; chin and throat white; breast, belly, and vent, bright yellow; hind head yellow; back, rump, shoulders, and part of tail, bright olive; primaries dark grey, edged with lighter; secondary and wing-covert the same, edged with bright olive; the lower part of the tail brown-black tipt with grey; thighs grey; legs and claws brown.

FEMALE

Nearly the same, but of a less bright plumage.

INHABITS

Thick forests; frequenting the lofty iron bark trees.

REMARKS.

This bird has a loud shrill and pleasant note, and sings chiefly in the morning. Solitary or seen in pairs. They do not migrate.

J.W. Lewin New South Wales

J. M. Lewin, New South Wales

SPOTTED GROSS-BEAK.

(Pl. XI.)

LENGTH

Four inches and a half; bill three-eighths, and of a bright red; eye the same; lashes flesh colour; forehead, crown, back of the neck, and part of cheeks, grey; from base of beak to eye a black patch; chin white; fore part of the neck black, with a few white spots on each side above the shoulder; underwings a deep black, with oval white spots; breast, belly, and vent, white; back and wings greyish brown; rump and tail coverts bright crimson; tail black and a little forked; legs and claws dark grey.

FEMALE

Nearly the same, but less bright in plumage.

INHABITS

Forests near Paramatta; frequenting the sides of hills and barren places.

REMARKS.

These birds go in small flights in winter, and visit the gardens and other cultivated grounds.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF VICTORIA

COMMON GROSS-BEAK.

(Pl. XII.)

BEAK Conical and very gross; the forehead a little bald; the lower mandible bent a little inwards

NOSTRILS at the base of the beak.

TONGUE as if cut off at the end.

TOES placed three before and one behind.

LENGTH

Four inches and a half; bill three-eighths, and scarlet, with a black stripe on upper and under mandible; eye red; lashes black; from the base of the bill above the eye to the hind head a stripe of scarlet; crown, hind head, and cheek, dark grey; back part of neck, shoulder, back, and wing, brownish olive; rump and tail coverts crimson; tail black, lightly bound with small cross bars, and cuneiform; chin, throat, breast, and side of the belly and vent, light grey; belly oker; legs and claws pale oker.

INHABITS

Barren tracts near Sydney and Paramatta. They go in large flocks in autumn and in spring, separate into pairs, and build, in low bushes, an oval-shaped nest of dead grass, lined with down of sowthistle; lay five or six eggs, of a pale flesh colour, spotted with dull red. The male has a pleasant song. Are subject to fits.

Pl. XII.

Pl. XIII.

J.W. Lewin. New South Wales

ORANGE-RUMP FLY-CATCHER.

(Pl. XIII.)

BEAK flatted at the base, almost triangular, notched at the end of the upper mandible, and beset with bristles.

NOSTRILS almost round.

TOES divided as far as their origin.

LENGTH

Five inches and a half; bill three-eighths and black; eye pale brown; lashes grey; round the eye white; cheek black; chin white; throat black; breast greyish-white, spotted with black; belly, vent, and under tail-coverts, light oker; forehead chesnut; crown, hind head, back, and shoulder, brown; rump, tail-coverts, and lower part of tail, orange, the other half black; primaries and secondaries dark brown, edged with chesnut; legs and claws yellow flesh colour.

INHABITS

Thick brushes; frequents low bushes.

REMARKS.

A chattering noisy species, constantly in motion, jerking and spreading its fan-like tail as it passes from bush to bush, catching its food in its flight.

SCARLET-BACK WARBLER.

(Pl. XIV.)

BEAK awl-shaped and strait; the mandible almost equal, and slightly notched at top.

NOSTRILS small, a little depressed.

TONGUE lacerated on the margin.

TOES the exterior toe joined at the under part to the base of the middle one.

NB.—Most of the birds of this genus live upon insects, which obliges them to migrate southward in winter in Europe, and northward in New South Wales.

LENGTH

Four inches five-eighths; bill quarter of an inch and black; eye dark brown; lashes black; forehead, crown, hind head, cheeks, and nape of the neck, deep shining blue-black; chin, throat, breast, and part of the belly, black; back a bright scarlet; shoulder black; wings brown; lower part of belly and thighs pale brown; rump black; tail the same and cuneiform; leg flesh colour; claws brown.

FEMALE

Bill reddish-brown; above the eye a streak of the same colour; forehead, crown, neck, back, wings, and tail, brown; chin, throat, breast, white; belly light oker.

INHABITS

Forests near the banks of Patterson's River; frequents low bushes. The male has a a pretty song very like that of the superb warbler. They go in small flocks.

S. W. Lewin, New. South. Wales

VARIEGATED WARBLER.

(Pl. XV.)

LENGTH

Five inches and a half; bill four-eighths and black; eye black; lashes the same; forehead light blue; crown bluish-brown, edged with light blue, verging to a purple as it passes round the head; cheeks light blue, forming a beard-like appearance on each side the face; chin, throat, neck, and breast, deep shining blue-black; above the shoulder purple-blue; shoulder bright chesnut; back purple-blue; rump deep black; tail-coverts light brown; tail greenish grey and cuneiform, the outmost feather tipt white; wing brown; primary and secondary edged with light chesnut; greater wing-coverts the same; breast white; belly and vent pale oker; thighs grey; legs and claws brown.

FEMALE

Bill red; eye black; lashes same; from base of bill to eye red; the whole upper part of body and wing grey-brown; sides of head, cheeks, and neck, blue-grey; belly and vent light oker; thighs brown; tail greenish grey; legs brown.

INHABITS

Thick brushy woods; frequents the low bushes, creeping close to the ground in search of its food. This bird always goes in small flocks, among which it is remarkable that one male only is to be seen in full plumage, and they arrive not at that state till the third year. The male is a cheerful active bird, always singing on little elevated bushes it meets in its way. This species does not migrate.

ROCK WARBLER.

(Pl. XVI.)

LENGTH

Five inches; bill three-eighths and black; eye red-brown: lashes grey; forehead, crown, hind head, neck, back, shoulders, rump, and tail-coverts brownish grey; wings brown; chin white, with brown spots; cheek brown; throat dull orange; breast, belly, and vent, chesnut; tail black, a little forked; thighs light brown; legs and claws the same.

INHABITS

Rocks; frequents caverns inaccessible to mankind, and deep rocky gullies, creeping in the cavities and chasms. This is a shy and wary bird. Its note is sharp and shrill. Does not migrate.

Pl. XVII.

J. W. Lewin. New South Wales

RED-BREAST WARBLER.

(Pl. XVII.)

LENGTH

Five and half inches; bill three-eighths and black; eyes black; lashes the same; Forehead white; head, neck, chin, throat, back, rump, and tail-coverts, a deep black; breast crimson; belly and vent white; shoulders black; lesser wing-coverts white; primary black; secondary the same, crossed with two bars of white; greater wing-coverts black, the third feather has a broad edge of black and part of the first row; lesser wing-coverts the same; tail black and forked, the two outward feathers white, with a dash of black near the end; thighs black; legs and claws the same.

FEMALE

Bill black; forehead white; crown a brown-grey dashed with black; hind head, neck, back, rump, and tail-coverts, brown-grey; chin white; breast light crimson; belly pale oker; greater wing-coverts edged with the same; tail black, outer feather white; thighs grey; legs and claws black.

INHABITS

Forests; frequents low trees. This is a solitary bird; its note resembles that of the robin in England; frequenting also the abode of man in winter. This species does not migrate.

REED WARBLER.

(Pl. XVIII.)

LENGTH

Six inches and half; bill four-eighths and half; upper mandible brown, under oker; eye brown; lashes pale yellow, and from base of bill to eye the same; forehead, crown, and neck, greyish brown; cheeks brown; back sandy brown; rump oker; tail-coverts brown; tail dark brown, edged with lighter, and cuneiform; wings brown; primaries and secondaries edged with oker; chin and throat a dull white; breast, belly, and vent, oker; legs and claws the same.

FEMALE

The same, but less bright in plumage.

INHABITS

The neighbourhood of Paramatta in summer; frequents banks of the river and ponds; feeds and builds among the reeds. The male has a melodious song, somewhat like the English nightingale. Disappears about April, and returns in September.

Pl. XVIII.

J.W. Lewin. New South Wales

SCARLET CREEPER.

(Pl. XIX.)

LENGTH

Four inches; bill quarter of an inch, and black; eyes brown; lashes grey; forehead, and crown bright scarlet; cheeks black; chin, throat, and breast, bright scarlet; vent scarlet, variegated with black; hind head scarlet, variegated with black; back, rump, and shoulders, black; variegated with scarlet; primaries and secondaries dark brown, edged with brownish white; thighs scarlet; legs brown; claws black.

FEMALE

Length three inches and three-quarters; bill three-quarters of an ineh, and dark brown, with a white streak in the under part; eyes brown; lashes grey; forehead and crown brown; throat light flesh colour; breast, belly, and vent, white; hind head, back, rump, and shoulders, brown; thighs, legs, and claws, brown.

INHABITS

The neighbourhood of the river Nepean; frequenting thick brushy woods.

WHITE-EARED HONEY-SUCKER.

(Pl. XX.)

LENGTH

Six inches and a quarter; bill half an inch, and black; eyes black; lashes grey; cheeks and ears white; chin, throat, and breast, black; belly olive, spotted with grey; vent light olive; forehead, crown, and hind head, dark grey, spotted with black; back, shoulders, and rump, bright olive; primaries and secondaries bright olive; tail brown, edged with bright olive; thighs pale olive; legs and claws brown.

FEMALE

Nearly the same as the male, but of a less bright plumage.

INHABITS

The neighbourhood of Sydney and Parramatta; frequenting thick brushy woods. They do not migrate.

PLXXI.

CRESTED FLY-CATCHER.

(Pl. XXI.)

LENGTH

Seven inches; bill half an inch, and black; eye the same; lashes grey; forehead dark glossy blue; feathers on the crown long and blue, forming a crest erected at pleasure; hind head, cheeks, breast, and neck, bright blue; back, rump, wings, and tail, light blue; belly and vent white.

INHABITS

The neighbourhood of Sydney; frequenting thick bushes near lagoons and ponds, from whence it darts on its prey. This species does not migrate.

WHITE-BREASTED HONEY-SUCKER.

(Pl. XXII.)

LENGTH

Six inches; bill half an inch, and black; eye brown; lashes the same; forehead light brown; cheeks dark brown; behind the ear a small whitish patch: chin and throat white, edged with dark brown; breast, belly, and vent, white; hind head, back, and rump, dark olive; primaries and secondaries brown, edged with lighter; upper part of the tail dark brown; under coverts grey; thighs light brown; legs grey; claws black.

FEMALE

Nearly the same as the male, but of a less brighter plumage.

INHABITS

Forests; frequents trees of the Banksia. This species does not migrate.

YELLOW-BREASTED THRUSH.

(Pl. XXIII.)

LENGTH

Five inches and a quarter; bill half an inch, and black; eyes black; lashes grey; forehead, crown, and cheeks, grey; throat light grey; breast, belly and vent, bright yellow; hind head and back-coverts grey; rump bright olive; shoulders grey; primaries and secondaries brown, edged with white; tail brown, tipt with white; thighs grey; legs and claws brown.

FEMALE

The same.

INHABITS

Thick forests; frequenting the native pear trees.

REMARKS.

This bird has a loud and pleasant song, and sings chiefly in the morning. Solitary or seen in plains. They do not migrate.

BLACK-CROWNED HONEY-SUCKER.

(Pl. XXIV.)

LENGTH

Five inches; bill three-eighths, and dark brown; eyes brown; lashes red; forehead and crown black, bordered with white in the form of a crescent; cheeks black; throat and breast white; vent light brown; hind head black; back and rump bright olive; shoulder-coverts blue; tail brown; primaries brown, edged with lighter; secondaries brown; thighs light brown; legs grey; claws black.

FEMALE

The same as the male.

INHABITS

The neighbourhood of Paramatta and the Hawkesbury; frequenting thick brushy woods.

J. W. Lewin. New South Wales

Pl XXV.

F.W. Lewin. New South Wales

THE COMMON CREEPER.

(Pl. XXV.)

LENGTH

Five inches and a half; bill three-quarters of an inch, and black; eye brown; lashes grey; forehead, crown, and cheeks, grey, spotted with brown; ear pale orange; throat white; breast light grey; belly and vent grey, spotted with brown; hind head and back brown; rump and part of the tail-coverts grey; primaries and secondaries brown, edged with lighter; the sides of the tail black, tipt with grey; thighs grey; legs and claws grey.

FEMALE

Nearly the same, but of less bright plumage.

INHABITS

Thick forests; frequenting the female oak trees.

CRESTED SHRIKE.

(Pl. XXVI.)

INHABITS

Forests.

REMARKS.

Frequents thick brushes. Is a noisy chattering species, very active in tearing off the bark of trees and shrubs in search of insects, particularly hard-coated beetles.

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J.W. Lewin. New South Wale

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

Plate I.—Three-toe King-Fisher ..... *Page* 1
II.—Mountain Bee-Eater 2
III.—Waty-face Honey-Sucker 3
IV.—Blue-face Honey-Sucker 4
V.—Yellow-ear Honey-Sucker 5
VI.—King Honey-Sucker 6
VII.—Crimson-throat Fly-Catcher 7
VIII.—Orange-breast Thrush 8
IX.—Crested Thrush 9
X.—Black-Crown Thrush 10
XI.—Spotted Gross-Beak 11
XII.—Common Gross-Beak 12
XIII.—Orange-rump Fly-Catcher 13
XIV.—Scarlet-back Warbler 14
XV.—Variegated Warbler 15
XVI.—Rock Warbler 16
XVII.—Red-breast Warbler 17
XVIII.—Reed Warbler 18
XIX.—Scarlet Creeper 19
XX.—White-eared Honey-Sucker 20
XXI.—Crested Fly-Catcher 21
XXII.—White-breasted Honey-Sucker 22
XXIII.—Yellow-breasted Thrush 23
XXIV.—Black-crowned Honey-Sucker 24
XXV.—The Common Creeper 25
XXVI.—Crested Shrike 26

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